

Hobbies

New Rushmore issue, convention in store for coin buffs

By Roger Boye

The new year promises much excitement for Chicago-area coin buffs, thanks to government "new issues" and a huge coin convention next August in suburban Rosemont. Here's a tentative rundown of coming attractions:

● **February:** Uncle Sam begins selling Mt. Rushmore commemorative coins to collectors in the first of a trio of such programs for 1991. The United States Mint will produce three coin types—a gold piece, silver dollar and clad half dollar—to mark the 50th anniversary in 1991 of the national memorial.

● **April:** Order forms are scheduled to be mailed for a Korean War silver dollar that was authorized in the waning days of



The first of three Mt. Rushmore coins the Mint will issue in 1991.

the 101st Congress. A surcharge of \$7 from the sale of each commemorative coin will help pay for construction of a Korean War memorial in Washington, D. C.

● **May:** Federal workers are

scheduled to send to collectors information on buying the standard 1991 proof and uncirculated coin sets. For the first time, literature on both set types will be in one mailing, rather than

two, according to a U. S. Mint spokesperson. The materials also will describe the 1991 "prestige proof sets," which will contain the five circulating coin types and a Mt. Rushmore silver dollar.

● **June:** The government's tentative schedule calls for the mailing of order forms for silver dollars commemorating the 50th anniversary of the United Service Organizations. A surcharge of \$3.50 from each dollar sale will go to the USO and its programs, which benefit military personnel and their families.

● **Aug. 13-18:** The American Numismatic Association—the nation's largest organization of coin collectors—holds its 100th anniversary convention at the O'Hare Exposition Center. "The World's Fair of Money" is expected to attract at least 15,000 people, who can buy rarities from hundreds of dealers, tour a "convention midway" with hands-on displays, view exhibits created by mints from around the world and obtain first-day-of-issue cancellations of a commemorative postage stamp honoring numismatics.

● **August:** U. S. Mint officials will send collectors order forms for proof specimens of the 1991 American Eagle gold and silver coins. This year, the government

established production limits and sold out of proof Eagles in three months.

Also in 1991, some lawmakers probably will re-introduce controversial coinage legislation in the new Congress that will call for fresh designs on the tails sides of circulating coins and "round dollars" to replace \$1 Federal Reserve notes. Other members of Congress may advocate production of several coins to commemorate the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta.

Finally, Uncle Sam may introduce "greenbacks" next year that feature new anti-counterfeiting devices, such as microprinting around the center portraits. The changes, which have been under study for several years, are expected to make paper money more difficult to duplicate accurately on color copying machines.

A footnote: Officials have yet to set prices for 1991 commemorative coins and coin sets. Collectors who want literature and coin-order forms from the United States Mint can get on the government's mailing list by writing to the mint at 10001 Aerospace Drive, Lanham, Md. 20706, or by calling (301) 436-7400.